



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

2175 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20037-1809

Phone 202-261-7600 Fax 202-261-7650

www.chemsafety.gov

Paul L. Hill, Jr., Ph.D.
Chairman and CEO

Gerald V. Poje, Ph.D.
Board Member

Irv Rosenthal, Ph.D.
Board Member

Andrea Kidd Taylor, Dr. P.J.
Board Member

November 16, 1999

Assistant Attorney General Beth Nolan
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

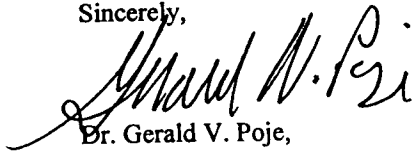
Dear Assistant Attorney General Nolan:

On November 4, 1999 by a voting majority, the Chemical Safety Board directed the Chairman of our agency to transmit the enclosed legal memorandum on our Board's governance to the Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel for its review and opinion of its legal correctness. He has not acceded to the Board's legal direction. Therefore, collectively we have undertaken the transmittal of the enclosed document.


We believe that the memorandum by our attorneys is correct, and we agree to be bound by your opinion as to its legal accuracy. Because this matter concerns who is legally charged with running our agency, we respectfully request that you provide us with your opinion as soon as possible. This matter is urgent since Chairman Hill is communicating budget requests and responding to congressional inquiries in the name of the Board without reviewing or obtaining approval on such items.

Please feel free to contact us individually on this matter or address your questions and response to our General Counsel, Mr. Chris Warner (202-261-7624). Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Dr. Gerald V. Poje,
Board Member


Dr. Isadore Rosenthal
Board Member


Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor
Board Member

cc: Paul L. Hill, Jr. Chairman